THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The number of operational units in the six Export processing Zones is indicated below:

Name of the Zone	No. of units in operation
Kandla Free Trade Zone (KAFTZ)	79
Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ)	121
Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ)	88
Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ)	53
Cochin Export Processing Zone (CEPZ)	29
Falta Export Processing Zone (FEPZ)	13
TOTAL :	383

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the Export Processing Zones and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rubber India 2000 Project

2142. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a Rs. 445 crore 'Rubber India 2000' project; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and at what stage of consideration is the project at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) No. Sir. Government have not drawn up a Rs. 445 crore 'Rubber India 2000' project. However, a perspective plan has been drawn up to achieve self-sufficiency in production of natural rubber subject to availability of funds. This plan includes the following strategies to augment the production of natural rubber in the country:—

(i) Expand the area under rubber cultivation by bringing more and more non-traditional regions under plantation.

(ii) Speed-up replantation of old and low yielding areas with modern high yielding cultivators.

(iii) Raise productivity of existing mature plantations by popularising adoption of modern technology.

This comprehensive perspective plan involves an outlay of Rs. 270 crores between the period 1992-93 to 1996-97. The plan outlay for the current year 1993-94 is Rs. 42.38 crores which includes a foreign aid component of Rs. 16.41 crores.

In order to achieve the target as set out by the perspective plan and to augment the availability of funds, the Rubber Board has recently finalised a comprehensive project with the World Bank with a total foreign aid of US $ 92.0 Million. This project is likely to commence after necessary protocols are signed during the current year. After the implementation of the World Bank Project by 1997-98, possibilities can be explored by the Rubber Board to finance the rest of the schemes as envisaged in the perspective plan to achieve self-sufficiency.

Recognition of Export Houses

2143. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the export limit for recognition of export houses, trading and star trading houses;

(b) what is the criteria for setting up of export limits in each case;

(c) whether it is a fact that the exporter have demanded for lowering the enhanced limit for recognition of export houses of various nomenclature, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government to the demand of exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The export limits for recognition of export house.

trading and star trading house are as under :—

Category	Average FOB value of physical exports during the preceding three licensing years	FOB value of physical exports during the preceding licensing years
Export House :	Rs. 10 crores	Rs. 15 crores
Trading House :	Rs. 50 crores	Rs. 75 crores
Star Trading House :	Rs. 250 crores	Rs. 300 crores

(b) Exporters having high volume of past export performance and strong international marketing capability and infrastructure, as per criteria laid down in Chapter XII of the Export & Import Policy, 1992-97 (Revised Edition : March 1993) are granted the relevant status. For simplification the recognisation criteria has been changed from net foreign exchange earnings (NFE) to FOB value of past exports.

(c) and (d) Requests of this nature are considered in the review of Export & Import Policy which is a continuous process. changes are made in the policy as and when considered necessary.

Task Force to study China's spectacular export performance

2144. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a task force has recently been set up by Government to study, compare and contrast China's spectacular export performance and suggest immediate remedial measures to given shot in the arm to Indian export;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the task force has submitted any interim/final report to Government in this regard;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when the task force is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (e) Government of India had recently set up a Task Force to study and make recommendation for promoting the flow of foreign investment in India. The Task Force has since submitted its report in which various measures for promoting flow of foreign investment in India have been suggested. It has also suggested certain procedural bottlenecks to be removed.

Effect on export of engineering goods due to I. P. R. S.

2145. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times of June 22, 1993 captioned 'Engg. goods exporters in a bind over funds'; if so, the amount of pending claims with regard to International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS); and

(b) whether it is a fact that the export of engineering goods has been affected and exports during the past four months have shown a downward trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. As on 2nd August 1993 claims worth Rs. 211 crores were pending for want of funds.

(b) There has been no downward trend in export of engineering items during April-May, 1993 as compared to exports during the corresponding period in the preceding year, Export statistics for June, 1993 onwards are not yet available.

Export of Tobacco to the Erstwhile USSR

2146. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the total quantity of tobacco purchased by the erstwhile USSR and Com-